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**Governor's Autism Council**  
**Friday, February 10, 2017**  
**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Department of Health Services**  
**1 W. Wilson St., Room 630, Madison WI 53707**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present:** Nissan Bar-Lev; Vivian Hazell; Pam Lano; Dr. Becky Thompson (in place of Glen Sallows)

**Committee Members Participating by Phone:** Shannon Knall, Roberta Mayo; Milana Millan

**Committee Members Absent:** Wendy Coomer; Liesl Jordan; Glen Sallows; Michael Williams (on leave from Committee)

**DHS Staff:** Deb Rathermel (Director – Bureau of Children's Long Term Support Services, BCLTSS); Andrea Jacobson (Section Chief – BCLTSS); Sam Ninnemann (Program and Policy Analyst – BCLTSS); Nancy Bills (Spherion, Administrative Staff, BCLTSS)

**Public Attendees:** Matthew Doll; Bob Johnston; Tabitha Ramminger (Forward Health);  
Pam Appleby (DHS); Judith Quigley (DHS)

**Meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m.**

**1) Welcome and Introductions** – Andrea Jacobson (BCLTSS)

Council members and Department of Health Services (DHS) staff introduced themselves

**2) Public Comments:** None

**3) Operational:**

- Approval of meeting minutes from November 10, 2016
- Motion made by Vivian, seconded by Nissan, to approve the meeting minutes with a spelling name/association correction for Kim Schutt-Chardon and Stacie Ferg (FVATP)

**4) Council Business:**

- Letter to the Governor with updated mission, scope and request for priority appointment.
  - Nissan proposed deleting "DPI, and DWD" under the Scope section as how it reads now seems to go outside of the Council's scope. Deb explained the scope per under 22 years of age, and the Committee discussed the issue. A decision was made to have Pam edit this bullet point and resend this paper to members. New language will read: "Advise DHS on strategies to facilitate transition to independence with DPI and DWD."
- Safety Workgroup -
  - Andrea provided brief history regarding the Council's decision to form a Safety workgroup. Wendy, Pam, Milana, Liesl, and Nissan will be meeting on February 23 and will consult with non-council members as needed. Workgroup will update the full Committee at the May meeting.

#### **5) Behavioral Treatment Benefit:**

- Tabitha provided an update on the autism treatment benefit transition. Per data pulled in January 2017:
  - 3,500 prior authorizations (PAs) were received in 2016;
  - 2,252 overall approvals
  - 1,500 of those approved PAs submitted claims for services rendered
  - 169 were modified, and 10 were denied (7 of the 10 that were denied were resubmitted and were ultimately approved)
  - In 2016, there were 45,000 unique claims processed. Gross numbers for approval were based on claims that the provider had requested that were medically necessary.
- Council members requested an update regarding the current restrictions on treatment based on number of hours for school-age children. Tabitha explained that DHS and DPI have a current workgroup exploring the interface of shortened school day and treatment services guidance. She will provide an update to the council once the workgroup has developed guidance. Council members noted that providing 30 hours of services when kids are school age creates a logistics issue for parents and a preference to allow the provision of these services in school. They also wondered if any data is available to assist in identifying this potential challenge for families.
- Council members would also like guidance in terms of providers going into schools (DPI have guidance or is it up to the school district?). Additional discussion occurred regarding payment and contracting for services; who is the responsible for service payment, Medicaid or another source; differences related to private vs. public school services; school integration; teacher education; school staff working collaboratively with mental health professionals in a school setting. Deb provided explanation regarding coordinated services for children in Birth to 3 Program and the CLTS Waiver program and the importance of early identification.
- Council members discussed the loss of Support and Service Coordinators for families who are now only receiving card covered services and no longer enrolled in the waiver program. Council discussed possible resources for an online directory.
- Council wondered what resources currently exist and/or if DHS could provide a list of providers through the Forward Health portal or some other statewide/regional resource to support connecting families to needed supports and services. DHS can distribute our own materials, but there are restrictions on posting other types of materials. Andrea highlighted that the “no wrong door” principle is something that DHS recognizes as important and that the Council’s questions, concerns, comments, and discussion today were helpful, and she will pass on this identified need to Bureau administration. Pam added that the Waisman Center, First Step, county/regional organizations, and other state groups might be another potential resource to consider. The Autism Society of Wisconsin (ASW) Conference hosts all of the regions and that would be a good place to collect more information about resources. Council members were requested to bring pamphlets, publications, and documents that help families connect with treatment or other support services to next Council meeting on May 11. Nissan requested that Roberta scan and send what she has to the Council members.

#### **6) NCI Survey Report and Gather Feedback:**

- Andrea Jacobson and Sam Ninnemann from BCLTSS provided an overview of the National Core Indicators (NCI) Child and Family Survey Outcomes Wisconsin Report (2014-2015 Data) and plan to repeat this survey in May of 2017. The 2014/2015 survey went out to the CLTS long term waiver parents/caregivers for children with intellectual/developmental disabilities (at this time the NCI Survey is only intended for this target population). Of the mailed 4,476 family surveys sent out, 1037 responses were received. DHS is aware that this survey only reached a portion of the families that DHS works with and additional survey formats will be developed to gather information from all families receiving services. Wisconsin is permitted to add a few questions specific to our state and the Council members were being asked for any input or suggestions that they may have regarding development of additional questions.

**NCI Survey Report and Gather Feedback: (continued)**

- Stakeholders have expressed interest in exploring aspects such as: quality of life for siblings, access to Tele Health, level of family stress, history of trauma, access to experienced therapists and providers in general, family experience with transitions, coordination of systems. Council members raised issues regarding grievance procedures and lack of available staff. Council members were asked to summarize their feedback and any additional questions and bring it back to the May meeting.
- It was noted that based on 2014-2015 survey results a couple of areas of interest to the Bureau include access to information on available services and supports and the ability for families to know where to go to do a grievance or file a complaint. Council members noted that NCI survey information could be shared at the ASW Conference and/or Circles of Life Conference, and that Family Ties also performs an annual survey.

**7. May 11 Agenda and Next Steps**

1. Status of the Governor's Budget – presentation by Andrew Forsaith (Director, Office of Policy Initiatives and Budget, Department of Health Services)
  2. DHS and DPI (Department of Public Instruction) workgroup update if available
  3. Safety Committee update
  4. Public Records Training
- Deb reminded members to please bring information service pamphlets to the May meeting.

**8. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Vivian; seconded by Nissan and passed unanimously.**

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